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IN VACATION.

In re Susie Snooks.—The following warrant was actually issued by a justice of the peace in one of the wealthiest and most cultivated counties of the State. It is needless to say, however, that before trial the learned justice was advised that he had as well withdraw it:—

"Whereas _____ nas this day made complaint and information on oath before me _____, a justice of the peace, that Susie Snooks, within six months last past in the said County has been and is now doing things unbecoming to a lady and against the dignity of the Commonwealth, and the said Susie Snooks is proclaimed to be a nuisance to the community in which she lives, from a moral standpoint, in violation of the laws of Virginia, these are therefore, etc."

We wonder how many warrants of this character would be issued during the summer season if conduct "unbecoming a lady" were to be an offense against the criminal laws of the Commonwealth.

"Don't you envy the opportunities that great wealth affords?"

"Well," replied the philosopher in overalls, "of course I'd like the limousines and private yachts, but I don't care so much for the alimony arguments and writs of habeas corpus."—Washington Star.

The evidence was absolutely conclusive against the old negro who was charged with stealing a chicken from his neighbors, says the National Monthly. The old negro was a familiar figure to the judge who addressed him reproachfully:

"Now, Rastus, why did you steal that chicken?"

"Bekase ma pooh family wuz starving, yo' Honnor," whimpered the old man.

"Family starving!" cried the judge. "But they tell me you keep four dogs. How is that, uncle?"

"Why, yo' Honnor," said the old fellow, reproachfully, "you wouldn't spect ma family to eat dem dogs!"—St. Louis Post-Dispatch.

Provocative Defense.—"The street crossing at Hickory street, St. Louis avenue, Mulberry, and Santa Fe streets were blocked for twenty-five minutes by a train," says the Kansas City Star. "A. L. Anderson, the conductor, was in police court to tell why.

"'You see, it was this way,' he said. 'We were pulling into Armourdale when the train stopped suddenly. I ran to find what was

wrong. Well, the engine was around one curve, the caboose around another, and I couldn't get a signal to either man. The tower-man was handing me the back-up and somebody else was giving me the go-ahead. Just then I found an angle cock had dropped from the air tube on one of the cars, and they were trying to line up the switches on me. Then I got a stop word and I found out a pin lifter had dropped. I slacked 'em ahead as soon as I could, but I couldn't help matters.'

"I guess so," said Judge Kyle. 'Ten dollars.'—The Docket.

BOOK REVIEWS.

All book reviews are by the Editor-in-Chief unless otherwise expressly stated.

American and English Annotated Cases—Containing the important cases selected from the current American, Canadian and English Reports, thoroughly annotated. Editors, William M. McKinney and H. Noyes Greene. Volume XL, Ann. Cas. 1916B. Edward Thompson Company, Northport, Long Island, New York, 1916. Bancroft-Whitney Company, San Francisco. 1916. Price \$5.00.

As usual we find the selections and annotations in this series of great interest and usefulness. The following notes are of more than usual interest. On page 67, "Facts Sufficient to Raise Presumption of Death from Absence for Less than Seven Years." "The Right of Inheritance within State of Child Adopted under the Laws of Another State;" "Who Is Entitled to Increase of Value of Property Held under Life Tenancy;" "Wages as Preferred Claim in Bankruptcy." On page 384 is a lengthy note covering sixty-four pages upon "What Is Adequate Verdict in Action for Personal Injuries Not Resulting in Death," which is admirable in its arrangement and selection, and we note that several Virginia cases are quoted. On page 634 is a long and valuable note giving the laws in the different states as to the priority as between a mechanic's lien and mortgage of property. On page 819 is a note of much novelty and interest on the "Construction of Initiative or Referendum Provision in Constitution, Statute or Municipal Charter."

The Land Title Registration Act of the State of New York, Indexed, with introduction by Dorr Viele and Joseph C. Baecher, of the New York State Bar, Official Examiners of Titles. Second Edition. Albany, New York. Matthew Bender & Company, Incorporated. 1916. Price 50 cents.

Now that the Torrens System has become law in the State of Virginia, even though to a limited extent, this little booklet will be of exceeding great value to all lawyers in such counties as may elect to adopt the Torrens System. The New York statute is practically the same as the Virginia statute, and the notes by the Examiners of Title add very much to its value, as brief as they are. We can commend this little book to those whose fortune or misfortune it may be to have had to wrestle with this new system.